

Message Text

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O R 040910Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7747

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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DAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 17421

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, SEPTEMBER

26 - OCTOBER 2, 1973

SUMMARY: IN MR 1, MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, BUT THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN ALL THREE PROVINCES TO THE SOUTH; NOTABLY AGAINST LOCS, INCLUDING ROUTE 1. IN MR 2, THERE WERE NO NEW ENEMY INITIATIVES IN THE PLEIKU-KONTUM AREA, BUT THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN HARASSMENT IN THE NORMALLY TRANQUIL SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS. ALONG THE COAST, REPORTED ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY THE RESULT OF GVN OPERATIONS TO SECURE AREAS OF BINH DINH AND TO DENY RICE TO THE ENEMY THROUGHOUT THE LOWLANDS. IN MR 3, THE STEADY DECLINE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY REACHED THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE EARLY JULY - UNTIL THE QUIET WAS SHATTERED SEPTEMBER 29 BY THE BIGGEST BATTLE SINCE JANUARY. IN THIS ACTION IN SOUTHERN TAY NINH, A BATTALION OF THE 25TH DIVISION WAS DESTROYED IN AN AMBUSH. IN THE DELTA, ARVN RANGERS ARE DISENGAGING SHORT OF THEIR OBJECTIVE OF DRIVING THE NVA FROM GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAQRDOC, PREPARATORY TO DEPARTING MR 4 AS PART OF THE RANGER FORCE RE-ORGANIZATION. ASSASSINATIONS HAVE BEEN A FEATURE OF RECENT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN BOTH MR 3 AND MR 4. WITH THE NEW POLISH AND IRANIAN AMBASSADORS ON BOARD AND THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF THE LATTER'S TEAM DUE TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE WEEK, THE ICCS SHOWS SIGNS OF A DESIRE TO RESUME FULL OPERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE TPJMC FELL VITIM TO THE FALLOUT FROM PLEI DJERENG, AS THE TWO-PARTIES TOOK TURNS IN LEVELING CHARGES, DEMANDING INVESTIGATIONS, AND STAGING WALKOUTS. THE USUAL WRANGLING IN THE FPJMT WAS ALSO CUT SHORT ON OCTOBER 2 BY A PRG WALKOUT.

PART I ICCS

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1. THE NEW POLISH DELEGATION CHIEF, AMBASSADOR KULAGA, AS ICCS CHAIRMAN FOR SEPTEMBER, CALLED A "SPECIAL SESSION" SEPTEMBER 29, WHICH HE USED AS A MEANS OF SHOWING POLISH DESIRE TO GET THE ICCS BACK IN BUSINESS. ASIDE FROM HIS REMARKS TO THIS EFFECT, THE ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT WAS MADE BY INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR DHARSONO, WHO, AFTER OFFICIALLY WELCOMING KULAGA AND IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SADRI TO THE ICCS, REVIEWED ICCS HISTORY TO DATE AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE FOUR PARTIS TO APPROVE AN ICCS BUDGET.

2. DURING HIS FRIST WEEK IN SAIGON, AMBASSADOR SADRI HAS HAD A LENGHTY ROUND OF CALLS ON HIS ICCS COLLEAGUES, ON FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, ON TWO PARTY OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES, AND ON DRV

OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR SADRI HAS ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE SECURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, THE FIRST GROUP OF WHICH IS NOW EXPECTED IN SAIGON OCTOBER 8 OR 9, AND HAS ASKED OCTOBER CHAIRMAN ESZTERGALYOS FOR INSCRIPTION OF AN ITEM ON ICCS FINANCING AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WHEN FIRST ICCS PLENARY SESSION IS HELD, AT A DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER.

PART II TPJMC

1. THE TPJMC FELL VICTIM DURING THE PAST WEEK TO THE FALLOUT FROM THE COMMUNIST ATTACK AT PLEI DJERENG, AS THE TWO PARTIES TOOK TURNS IN LEVELLING CHARGES, DEMANDING INVESTIGATIONS, AND STAGING WALK-OUTS IN THE CHIEFS' OF DELEGATION MEETINGS. BY OBTAINING ADVANCE PRG AGREEMENT TO AN EARLY START AND AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO THE TPJMC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, THE GVN WAS ABLE TO CONDEMN THE ATTACK AND DEMAND AN ICCS-JMC INVESTIGATION AND, WHEN THE DEMAND WAS PREDICTABLY REJECTED, TO CONTRIVE THE APPEARANCE OF A WALKOUT TO UNDERScore ITS INDIGNATION. TO JUDGE FROM THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE'S AIRY DISMISSAL OF THE GVN CHARGES AS A "FABRICATED AND IMAGINARY STORY," IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN TIPPED OFF BY HIS AUTHORITIES AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CHARGES, MUCH LESS HOW TO RESPOND TO THEM. THE PRG DELEGATION WOULD HARDLY HAVE ACCOMMODATED THE GVN BY AGREEING IN ADVANCE TO AN EARLY AND ABBREVIATED MEETING SO THAT ITS GVN COUNTERPARTS COULD ATTEND TO "OTHER BUSINESS" HAD IT EXPECTED THE CONTRIVED WALKOUT OR SUSPECTED THAT THE "OTHER BUSINESS" WAS A PREARRANGED PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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BRIEFING ON PLEI DJERENG GIVEN BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GVN DELEGATION.

2. THE COMMUNISTS HAD RECEIVED THE WORD BY THE NEXT DAY, FOR THE REGULAR SATURDAY PRG PRESS BRIEFING, AS WELL AS COMMUNIST MEDIA PLAY THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, ZEROED IN ON GVN POST-CEASE-FIRE "NIBBLING OPERATIONS." NO LONGER DID THE COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN DISMISS OR EVEN TRY TO DENY THE ATTACK AT PLEI DJERENG, BUT ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY IT BY CLAIMING THAT THE ARVN FORCE AT PLEI DJERENG HAD BEEN THERE AS A RESULT OF "NIBBLING OPERATIONS" AND THAT MEASURES TO PUNISH THE GVN FOR SUCH OPERATIONS WERE ACTS OF SELF-DEFENSE TO PROTECT "LIBERATED AREAS." GVN-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATION ON SATURDAY AND PRESIDENT THIEU'S TOUGH "EYE-FOR-AN-EYE" SPEECH AT PLEIKU ON OCTOBER 1 WERE ADDED TO THE LIST OF PROVOCATIONS CONDEMNED IN A FIFTEEN-MINUTE COMMUNIST STATEMENT READ AT THE OCTOBER 2 CHIEFS' OF DELEGATION MEETING. THE PRG DEMANDED AN ICCS INVESTIGATION OF GVN NIBBLING OPERATIONS AND ACCUSED THE GVN OF CLAMORING FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR, AND PROMPTLY WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING OVER THE PROTEST OF A SURPRISED GVN DELEGATION. (THEY WERE STAGING A SIMULTANEOUS WALK-OUT IN THE FPJMT: SEE BELOW.)

3. HERE THE MATTER RESTS FOR THE MOMENT: THE PRG DELEGATION

ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE BACK AT THE TABLE ON OCTOBER 5, AND THE
GVN DELEGATION HOPES TO DE-ESCLATE THE RHETORIC OVER PLEI
DJERENG AND MOVE ON TO LESS PROVOCATIVE MATTERS.

PART III FPJMT

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK THE US AND RVN DELEGATIONS TO THE FPJMT
CONTINUED WITHOUT SUCCESS ITS EFFORTS TO INDUCE THE OTHER SIDE TO
IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 8(B) OF THE AGREEMENT. THE US DELEGATION

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 SAIGON 17421

LIMDIS

PRESSED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT US AND THIRD COUNTRY PERSONS WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION OR WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA. AT THE OCT 2 SESSION THE RVN DELEGATION STATED ITS READINESS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON PRG PERSONNEL WHO DIED IN ACTION AND WHO ARE BURIED IN RVN TERRITORY. THE RVN DELEGATION DISPLAYED A COMPUTER PRINTOUT OF SOME 38,000 PRG AND DRV PERSONNEL CONTAINING THE DATE AND PLACE KILLED AND THE PLACE OF BURIAL. THE OCT 2 SESSION ENDED ABRUPTLY WHEN THE PRG DELEGATION, AFTER READING AN OPENING STATEMENT CRITICIZING ALLEGED US AND RVN FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT UNRELATED TO ARTICLE 8(B), WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING. THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME ANY DELEGATION HAS WALKED OUT OF AN FPJMT SESSION. THE PRG DELEGATION STATED THAT IT WOULD ATTEND THE NEXT SCHEDULED SESSION ON OCT 4.

2. THE JCRC OFFSHORE CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION IN THE DANANG-HUE AREA WAS TERMINATED ON SEPT 30. ANALYSIS OF AIR-CRAFT DEBRIS RECOVERED BY DIVERS HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED.

PART IV. MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION: ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 139 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF NINETEEN, AN INCREASE OF TWO OVER LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE. GVN CASUALTIES: 85 KIA, 281 WIA. PRG/NVA LOSSES: 140 KAI AND FIVE RETURNEES. ONLY 533 ROUNDS OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WERE FIRED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, WHILE 7,546 ROUNDS WERE FIRED SOUTH.

2. QUANG TRI - THUA TUIEN: TNEMY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) CAUSED ONLY 23 CASUALTIES (45 LAST WEEK). SUCH VIET CONG PRESSURE AS WAS APPLIED, WAS DIRECTED AGAINST SMALL OUTPOSTS. EIGHT OUTPOSTS OF THE 54TH REGIMENT WERE ATTACKED BY FIRE, OF WHICH TWO WERE LOST. TWO OUTPOSTS MANNED BY RF IN THE AIRBORNE AREA OF OPERATIONS NEAR THE BO RIVER WEST OF HUE WERE
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ALSO LOST.

3. QUANG NAM - QUANG TIN; VIET CONG ACTIVITY INCREASED. IN

QUANG NAM, GROUND ATTACKS AND ABF CAUSED 73 GVN CASUALTIES; MINES CAUSED 23. IN NORMALLY QUIET QUANG TIN, GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE CAUSED 22 GVN CASUALTIES AND MINES SEVEN. IN BOTH PROVINCES THE ENEMY MADE SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS BY BLOWING UP IMPORTANT BRIDGES. EARLY IN THE MORNING OF OCT 1, THE CAN LAU BRIDGE ON ROUTE 1 IN QUANG NAM WAS ATTACKED BY SAPPERS WHO APPARENTLY PLACED CHARGES ON THE BRIDGE SURFACE DURING THE CONFUSION FOLLOWING A MORTAR ATTACK IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. ROUTE 1 WAS CLOSED UNTIL A BAILEY BRIDGE WAS PUT IN PLACE LATE THE SAME DAY. (THIS SAME BRIDGE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED LAST ON AUGUST 31.) ALSO ON OCTOBER 1, THE MIDDLE SPAN OF A BRIDGE ON PROVINCIAL ROUTE 537, THE PRINCIPAL ROAD TO DUC DUC DISTRICT, WAS DESTROYED APPARENTLY BY UNDER-WATER SAPPERS. TRAFFIC WAS RESTORED BY NEXT MORNING. IN QUANG TIN EARLY ON OCT 2, THE ENEMY DESTROYED A FIVE-METER SPAN OF THE BAU BAU BRIDGE ON ROUTE 1. THIS TOO WAS REPAIRED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. LATE THE SAME DAY BRIDGE GUARDS FIRED AT AN APPROACHING RAFT, WHICH BLEW UP, DAMAGING AN UNUSED RAILROAD BRIDGE ALONGSIDE. COMMENT: BOTH GVN AND US INTELLIGENCE ASSUMES THAT THE ENEMY IS ATTEMPTING TO FORCE THE GVN TO CONCENTRATE TROOPS TO DEFEND SUCH INSTALLATIONS. THE VIET CONG CAN THEN MORE EASILY COLLECT RICE FROM THE UNPROTECTED PEASANTS DURING THE CURRENT HARVEST.

4. QUANG NGAI: THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED AGAIN IN QUANG NGAI. GROUND ATTACKS AND ABF CAUSED 127 GVN CASUALTIES, WHILE MINES CAUSED 55. ON SEPT 29, THE VIET CONG ATTACKED THE RF BATTALION HEADQUARTERS IN SON TINH DISTRICT, KILLING 8 AND WOUNDING 21. THE GVN REPORTED 14 ENEMY KILLED. ON SEPT 30 IN THE SAME DISTRICT, THE VC MORTARED AN RTV SITE, WOUNDING ONE CIVILIAN. ON SEPT 29 IN TU NGHIA DISTRICT THE VIET CONG MORTARED AN RF COMPANY; SOME ROUNDS HIT THE NEARBY REFUGEE CAMP, WOUNDING FIVE AND DAMAGING 15 HOUSES. ON SEPT 28, THEY MORTARED BOTH THE MINH LONG AND THE MO DUC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. GVN FORCES MADE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY ON 8 OCCASIONS. 4 OF THESE CONTACTS WERE IN BINH SON DISTRICT ON OCT 2, WHEN ELEMENTS OF TWO RF BATTALIONS KILLED 20 OF THE ENEMY WITH NO REPORTED FRIENDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CASUALTIES.

5. VIET CONG MILITARY ACTIVITY IN QUANG NGAI IN SEPT WAS CONCENTRATED AGAINST RTV SITES AND AREAS WHERE THE GVN IS ACTIVELY SEEKING TO CONSOLIDATE ITS CONTROL. THEY INITIATED ACTION PRIMARILY IN 3 SEPARATE PARTS OF THE PROVINCE: 3 VILLAGES OF EASTERN SON TINH, SON KIM VILLAGE OF NORTHCENTRAL SON TINH, AND PART OF THE NGHIA HANH - MO DUC DISTRICT BORDER. GVN FORCES INITIATED CONTACTS IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN 3 PRINCIPAL AREAS: IN BINH GIANG VILLAGE OF EAST BINH SON DISTRICT, IN WESTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS, AND IN THE AREA WEST OF MO DUC DISTRICT TOWN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 SAIGON 17421

LIMDIS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V MR 2

1. MILITARY SITUATION: FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN A ROW, 147 INCIDENTS WERE BRIEFED. BINH DINH HAD 82, KONTUM 23, PHU YEN 21 AND PLEIKU 13, EIGHT OTHERS WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF MR 2. MOST WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND MINE DETONATIONS. RVNAF REPORTED 48 KIA AND 200 WIA, ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE PREVIOUS WEEK WHEN THE FIGURES WERE 46 AND 180. COMMUNIST KIAS DECREASED FROM 262 TO 184. AIR STRIKES TOTALLED 256 WITH 170 TAKING PLACE IN PLEIKU, 60 IN BINH DINH AND 26 IN KONTUM.

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: THERE WAS NO MAJOR COMMUNIST INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA LAST WEEK AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ENEMY MOVEMENTS AND ATTACKS IN PLEIKU MAY HAVE BEEN REACTION TO ARVN DEPLOYMENTS NEAR THE VC BASE AREAS. THE ARVN 22ND DIVISION ESTABLISHED A FORWARD HQ IN PLEIKU UNDER THE COMMAND OF COL LE THO CUONG, FORMERLY A DIVISION STAFF OFFICER. HE CONTROLS THE 41ST AND 42ND REGTS BOTH OF WHICH ARE NOW IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. THE NVA'S 70TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP, WHICH HAS BEEN BEEFED UP AND WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS A MECHANIZED DIVISION, IS REPORTEDLY CONTINUING ITS EASTWARD MOVEMENT ALONG THE NEW ROAD SOUTH OF PLEIKU CITY. THIS UNIT WAS THE OBJECT OF INTENSIVE AIR ATTACKS DURING THE WEEK. THERE WAS LITTLE GROUND CONTACT IN EITHER PROVINCE; THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION WAS AROUND HILL 727, IN SOUTHERN KONTUM, WHICH IS STILL CONTROLLED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 95B REGIMENT. DURING HIS VISIT TO PLEIKU TO ATTEND THE II CORPS 16TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON OCT 1, PRESIDENT THIEU VOWED TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR SEIZURE OF PLEI DJERENG ON SEPT 22 AND TO RETAKE THE POSITION. HE ALSO MADE A SIDE TRIP TO KONTUM WHERE HE RECEIVED A BRIEFING FROM GENERAL CAM, THE 23RD DIVISION CG. THERE IS A LATE, UNCONFIRMED HOI CHANH REPORT THAT GENERAL VAN TIEN DUNG, THE NVA C OF S, VISITED PHUONG HOANG AIRFIELD IN DAK SUT, KONTUM TO INSPECT THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE B-3 FRONT AO LAST
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JULY. HE REPORTEDLY TRAVELED BY HELICOPTER.

3. BINH DINH: THE GVN IS CONTINUING ITS OPERATIONS IN COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS BOTH TO THE EAST AND THE WEST OF QL 1. EFFORTS TO SECURE THE LOWLANDS FOR RETURNING REFUGEES HAVE NOT YET BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND THE SHORT-TERM RESULT HAS BEEN TO GENERATE 1,700 NEWLY DISPLACED PERSONS. THE COMMUNISTS SEEM TO BE SETTLING INTO THE AN LAO AND KIM SON AREAS OF HOAI AN DISTRICT. SOME TWO HUNDRED WOMEN HAVE ARRIVED FROM THE NORTH AND PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. A CATHOLIC PRIEST FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA SAYS TWO RICE CROPS ANNUALLY COULD SUPPORT 60,000 PEOPLE THERE. THE NEW HOAI NHON DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR

TRINH BA TU, IS VIGOROUSLY RECRUITING AND ATTEMPTING TO UPGRADE THE PF IN HIS AREA. TU WAS FORMERLY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ARVN'S TAM QUAN-HOAI NHON TACTICAL FORCE. HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY IN NORTHERN BINH DINH LAST YEAR AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN RELEASED.

4. OTHER AREAS: HARRASSMENT OF QL 14, LEADING FROM QUANG DUC TO PHUOC LONG, IS INCREASING AND LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE COMMUNISTS MAY INTEND TO CLOSE THE ROAD COMPLETELY. THE SAME HIGHWAY IS THE FOCAL POINT OF MINOR HARRASSMENT FURTHER NORTH, WHERE THERE WERE TWO INCIDENTS NORTH OF BAN ME THUOT DURING THE WEEK. IN TUYEN DUC PROVINCE THERE WERE TWO MORTARINGS AND A SNIPING INCIDENT, ALL IN DUC TRONG DISTRICT, WHERE OUR PROV REP REPORTS THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE EXPANDING THEIR HOLDINGS. PHU BON REPORTS TWO INCIDENTS NEAR THE PHU YEN BORDER. IN THE FIRST, A COMMUNIST PATROL WAS AMBUSHED. THE SECOND WAS BILLED AS A RETALIATORY ATTACK ON AN RF POSITION. THERE HAVE BEEN EIGHT ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST THE RAILROAD SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, FIVE OF WHICH OCCURED DURING THE PAST WEEK IN PHU YEN.

5. RICE DENIAL: THE BINH THUAN S-3 REPORTS THAT ON SEPTEMBER 25, VNAF, WHILE CARRYING OUT A RICE PROTECTION AND DENIAL PROGRAM, DESTROYED 20 ENEMY HUTS, 50 INDIVIDUAL BUNKERS AND CROPS GROWING IN ADJACENT AREAS. OUR PHU YEN PROV REP REPORTS THAT AUTHORITIES IN THAT PROVINCE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF RICE FROM AREAS THEY CONTROL AND ARE ALSO ATTACKING COMMUNIST STORAGE AREAS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN KHANH HOA DISCOVERED 27 HECTARES OF
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AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE BASE AREA OF THE NINH HOA DISTRICT 470 SAPPER BN. IN ADDITION TO CROPS, GVN FORCES DESTROYED 51 HOUSES, 7 TUNNELS, 4 UNDERGROUND CAVES, AND AN ENGINEERING WORK SHOP FOR PRODUCING HAND GRENADES.

6. ICCS: THE ICCS WAS TRUE TO FORM WITH LITTLE NOTICEABLE ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK. ON SEPT 30 THE CHIEF OF THE POLISH DELEGATION AT PHAN THIET, COL BARCIKOWSY, WAS REPLACED BY COL CHMIELEWSKI, BARCIKOWSY, WHO SERVED BOTH IN HUE AND PHAN THIET, WAS GENERALLY CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE. THE PHAN RANG PROV REP OBSERVES THAT THE INDONESIANS THERE SPEAK LITTLE ENGLISH AND HE BELIEVES THEY WILL BE AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN PITTED AGAINST THE EXPERIENCED POLES AND HUNGARIANS. EVIDENTLY THE ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ICCS IS STILL UNCLEAR TO SOME. OUR KONTUM CONSUL RECENTLY PICKED UP A HITCHHIKER WHO EXPRESSED HIS SORROW THAT ALL THE AMERICANS HAD LEFT EXCEPT FOR THE FEW WHO RODE IN JEEPS MARKED "ICCS".

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LIMDIS

PART VI. MR 3

1. MILITARY CLASHES STEADILY DECLINED IN MR 3 DURING MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND IN WEEK ENDING 0800/OCTOBER 3 REACHED LOWEST LEVEL SINCE FIRST WEEK OF JULY. MR 3 G-2 REPORTED 75 INCIDENTS, DOWN SEVEN FROM LAST WEEK. EXCLUDING THE MAJOR BATTLE REPORTED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH (WHICH WAS NOT ENTERED IN TOC LOG), INCIDENTS CONSISTED MAINLY OF GROUND ATTACKS (27), ATTACKS FY FIRE (15) AND MINE/GRENADE DETONATIONS (20). ALSO, EXCLUDING BATTLE DESCRIBED BELOW, GVN LOSSES FOR WEEK WERE 23 KIA, 98 WIA, 1 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR SAME PERIOD WERE 26 KIA, 7 CIA/WIA. THERE WERE 14 RALLIERS.

2. THE LOW POINT IN MR 3 FIGHTING WAS SHATTERED SEPTZMBER 29 WHEN TWO BATTALIONS OF 25TH ARVN DIVISION WALKED INTO COMMUNIST AMBUSH VICINITY BEN CUI RUBBER PLANTATION IN KHIEM HANH DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE. THIS SPARKED BIGGEST BATTLE SINCE JANUARY CEASE-FIRE IN TERMS OF TOTAL CASUALTIES. ACTION RESULTED IN FRIENDLY LOSSES OF 45 KIA, 124 WIA AND 146 MIA (OF 297 FIRST REPORTED). VNAF REACTED FIRST DAY WITH 44 SORTIES REPORTEDLY RESULTING IN 183 NVA/VC KIA. ON OCTOBER 1 ADDITIONAL 49 SORTIES WERE FLOWN, FOLLOWED BY UNDISCLOSED NUMBERS OCTOBER 2 AND 3. FIVE BATTALIONS OF RF, ALONG WITH OTHER ELEMENTS 25TH DIVISION, HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO SEEK AND DESTROY ATTACKING FORCES WHICH IDENTIFIED AS NVA/VC 101ST DIVISION AND D-14 LOCAL FORCE. MR 3 CG MINH HAS FILED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION COMPLAINT WITH ICCS ON GROUNDS AREA OF ATTACK WAS UNDER GVN CONTROL AT TIME OF CEASE-FIRE I. MINH DOES NOT BELIEVE KHIEM HANH BATTLE SIGNALS ENEMY'S INTENTIONS TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE. HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMUNISTS WILL STEP UP ACTIVITY IN OCTOBER BY EMPLOYING LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS IN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN GVN TROOPS' WILL TO FIGHT, AND TO GRAB MORE LAND AND PEOPLE FROM GVN.

3. ASSASSINATIONS APPEARED ON UP-DURING PAST WEEK. IN LONG AN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCE VC THREW TWO GRENADES INTO CAN GIUOC VILLAGE OFFICE SEPTEMBER 26 KILLING THREE AND WOUNDING THREE. IN SAME VILLAGE SEPTEMBER 27 A PLASTIC CHARGE TOOK LIVES OF FIVE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED FIVE NATIONAL POLICE WHILE THEY WERE EATING AT A RESTAURANT. HAMLET CHIEF OF UYEN HUNG (H), TAN UYEN (V), BIEN HOA PROVINCE WAS SHOT TO DEATH SEPTEMBER 29 BY THREE VC ON HONDAS. ASSASSINATIONS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN GIA DINH AND HJC XGHIA PROVINCES. ALL ELEVEN PROVINCES OF MR 3 REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY, THOUGH MOST WERE OF MINOR NATURE.

4. A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION OVER COMMUNIST CAPTURE OF LE MINH RANGER BASE WAS STAGED BY GVN SEPTEMBER 29. ACCORDING TO GIA DINH ARRO, ABOUT 300 PSDF FROM GO VAP AND TAN BINH, WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHES, ASSEMBLED AT RD CADRE OFFICE AT 0800. WHEN QUERIED BY ADS AS TO PURPOSE OF GATHERING, PSDF REPLIED THEY DID NOT KNOW. FROM PROVINCE HQ "DEMONSTRATORS" WERE LED BY RD CADRE TO PROVINCE

COUNCIL WHERE LETTER PROTESTING COMMUNIST ATTACK ON LE MINH WAS READ. PROVINCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN THEN JOINED GROUP ON MARCH TO ICCS HQ TO PRESENT PROTEST. COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN LATER CONFIRMED TO ARRO THAT PROVINCE COUNCIL ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION.

5. ICCS: AT INVITATION MR 3 GVN REP TO TPJMC REGION V, INDODEL MADE FIRST VISIT TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 26. POLDEL AND HUNGDEL WERE ALSO INVITED BUT DECLINED. INDODEL TOLD CONSUL VISIT WAS FOR GENERAL ORIENTATION PLUS OBSERVATION OF GVN CONTROL VICINITY SONG BE. HOWEVER, PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEF PUT PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD ON DISPLAY, SHOWING INDODEL RESULTS ENEMY ROCKETING. THEY WERE ALSO SHOWN CORPSE OF CIVILIAN RECENTLY KILLED IN COMMUNIST B-40 ATTACK ON A BUS TRAVELLING ROUTE 14. INDODEL TEAM RETURNED TO PHUOC LONG SEPTEMBER 29 TAKING BG HARSOYO FOR HIS FIRST VISIT, BUT STAYED ONLY 1 HOUR. A STAND-BY ICCS CHOPPER RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE ENROUTE, BUT NONE OF INDODEL WERE ABOARD. INDODEL REPORTED THEY WILL SEND TWO-MAN TEAM BACK TO AN LOC IN NEAR FUTURE. DURING COURTESY CALL, IRANDEL TOLD LTG MINH THEY DEFINITELY PLAN FIELD TEAM AT AN LOC WHICH HE INTERPRETS AS DEMONSTRATION THEIR SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE.

PART VII. MR 4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) THE DELTA EXPERIENCED A MODEST RISE IN REPORTED INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING AT 0600 CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPTEMBER 26 AND ENDING AT 0600 OCTOBER 3. MR IV REPORTED A TOTAL OF 254 ALLEGED VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK, WITH THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING TAKING PLACE IN CHAU DOC, DINH TUONG, AND CHUONG THIEN. INCIDENTS AVERAGED 33 PER DAY DURING THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF THE WEEK (COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE OF 27 THE PREVIOUS WEEK), BUT JUMPED TO A WEEK'S HIGH OF 54 ON OCTOBER 2/3. REPORTED CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEK INCLUDED 139 RVNAF KILLED AND 513 WOUNDED AND 366 VC/NVA DEAD AND 5 CAPTURED. GVN CASUALTIES WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER AND VC/NVA CASUALTIES SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN THOSE DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19-26. MR IV REPORTED RECEIVING 43 RALLIERS DURING THE WEEK OF 23-30 SEPTEMBER.

(B) ACCORDING TO MR IV BRIEFERS, RVNAF SUFFERED 584 KILLED (INCLUDING 179 ARVN) AND 2522 WOUNDED DURING SEPTEMBER. THE VC/NVA ALLEGEDLY LOST 1892 KILLED. LOSSES SUFFERED BY BOTHNW SIDES WERE SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN AUGUST'S CASUALTIES.

(C) THE WEEK'S HEAVIEST AND MOST SUSTAINED FIGHTING CONTINUED TO BE ON THE SLOPE

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